

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 L-02

SCS-01 SCA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 ARAE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 A-01

CPR-01 DRC-01 /052 W

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O R 101925Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5972

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 7793

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, BR, US, CPRS (MORRIS, FREDERICK)

SUBJECT: PRESS CRITICISM OF EMBASSY IN MORRIS CASE

REF: BRASILIA 7777, 7784

1. WIDELY READ AND HIGHLY RESPECTED DAILIES
ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND FOLHO DE SAO PAULO FEATURED
STORIES ON OCT , 10 WHICH EXPRESSED HIGHLY CRITICAL
OFFICIAL VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR'S HANDLING OF MORRIS
CASE.

2. THE ESTADO ARTICLE, REFERRING TO DELIVERY OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE TO AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS BY
THE SECRETARY GENERAL RATHER THAN THE FOREIGN
MINISTER HIMSELF, HELD THAT THIS ACTION "CONFIRMS
REPORTS CIRCULATING IN BRASILIA DURING THE LAST
FEW DAYS ACCORDING TO WHICH BRAZIL HAD DISAPPROVED
THE CONDUCT OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT." THE ARTICLE
CONTINUES, " IT IS SAID IN BRASILIA THAT RELATIONS

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BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE ITAMARATY ARE

'VERY BAD' (MUITO RUIM), BECAUSE THE BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT THE RECIFE EPISODE TOOK ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A "DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT" SOLELY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ATTITUDE OF CRIMMINS."

3. MORE TRENCHANT FOLHA ARTICLE, UNDER BY-LINE OF SKILLED CORRESPONDENT FLAVIO SALLES HOLDS THAT "THE CLIMATE OF TENSION WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED BETWEEN THE ITAMARATY AND THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OVER THE EPISODE OF THE IMPRISONMENT OF PASTOR FREDERICK MORRIS IN RECIFE WILL HAVE BOTH LONG- AND SHORT-TERM REPERCUSSIONS, ACCORDING TO OBSERVATIONS IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN THE CAPITAL. ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES, ACCORDING TO SPECIALISTS IN FOREIGN POLICY, COULD EVEN BE THE REMOVAL OF MR. JOHN CRIMMINS FROM THE EMBASSY IN BRASILIA AND HIS TRANSFER TO ANOTHER POST, AS A FORMULA FOR REDUCING TENSIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY EXISTED FOR NEARLY ONE WEEK. THE IMPRESSION ONE RECEIVES FROM THE CHANCERY IS THAT AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS WAS PRECIPITATE IN HIS HANDLING OF THE MORRIS QUESTION AND WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY COOL TO LEAVE ASIDE THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS AND SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WITHIN THE TERMS WHICH DIPLOMATIC CUSTOM RECOMMENDS."

COMMENT: SALLES CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF OCT. 10 THAT SUBSTANCE HISSTORY CAME FROM HIGH LEVELS ITAMARATY. (HE HAS BEEN USED OFTEN IN THE PAST AS A TRUSTED MEANS FOR PUTTING ITAMARATY VIEWS BEFORE THE PUBLIC.) SALLES SAID THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THE STORY WAS INTENDED TO TURN ON A "RED TRAFFIC LIGHT, OR AT LEAST A DEEP PINK ONE" AS A SIGNAL TO THE EMBASSY ON THE MORRIS CASE.
CRIMMINS

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